

Colin Barson

Verbal information for the Commissioner – Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> October 2014.

The essence of my objections are simple –

The road as designed, based upon my experience is unsafe both from a driving perspective but also for foot passengers and cyclists. I accept that difficult decisions need to be made but this current scheme seems very limited on options considered. Rather than be critical of the process I will limit my points to safety accepting that this scheme has not been funded (£7m for underpass seems good value), smbc officers are obviously stressed and mcr city council appear to be the driver, in economic claims, excepting Govt money is on offer.

The road **outside my home is unsafe now**, has always been a little dangerous and is busy even during the night – 2-4 attracts larger lorries etc. The main problems are morning and afternoon rush hours but there are considerable difficulties in accessing the road at other times, even Sundays.

My qualifications are simple – a driver of over 40 yrs, clean licence, never had an accident whilst driving, I am not a road planner and cannot offer suggestions to make the road scheme safer.

Access to our driveway will be even more difficult than now and the pretext of stating **well its bad now does** not alleviate the issues that we will face. A consultant treating a person with cancer, finding a heart issue would not suggest it did not matter, this is unhelpful and lazy in the extreme.

Therefore the access to leaving either front ways or by reverse are considerably difficult and this will become more dangerous as more traffic flows across more lanes outside our home. The rebuttal ~~evidence of having an elevated position is ignorant. We enter the roadway at the level of the road.~~ Rather than be facetious I will simply suggest this is a poor rebuttal.

The comment to highway code – being an advanced driver and police trained enable me to make judgements both on the highway code and with recourse to the traffic acts form 1910. I have been up front about the problems we face and the dangers of reversing off a main road, especially one that is developing into 5 lanes, one of which is a left hand slip road. It is difficult now to reverse the car( **needing to angle the car across the carriageway**) and the pavement is of little use although better than nothing. Power steering does not aide this manoeuvre and the car will not turn tightly enough due to our walls. The quoting of the highway code in this situation is simplistic especially when SMBC officers suggested using the pavement in any event. Going forward, breaks in traffic are intermittent but the **local environment is one of fast speed coming through the junction at the 5 ways along the carriageway onto what was called the mad mile( past poynton pool)**

The junction as designed is quite simply dangerous and we need to be lucky and safe every time we leave our home or attempt to gain entry into our driveway. The situation of visibility even from the top of our **elevated driveway** is poor due to mature gardens and walling. At road level it is very poor driving or reversing out.

Finally – these are my opinions, not based upon modelling nor suggesting that I can see into the future, they are my opinions now and have been throughout this process concerns that I/we feel about our home. The road is a dangerous road, there have been many accidents even fatalities in

recent years. The junction at the **fiveways** has always been an **accident blackspot** even 30 years ago. There is limited scope for alleviating these concerns by changing the filters of lights. I ask the commissioners to seek a safe design for the junction, one that will allow traffic to flow freely and one that is not based upon a question ' **well what do you want**' as I am not a road planner **nor one limited to costs**. Safety of road users is paramount both cars and foot passengers, including cyclists who seem to multiply at weekends.

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